

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 COA-01

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FISHERIES SITUATION

REF: LISBON 1199

1. A HIGH OFFICIAL OF DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF FISHERIES,
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL FISHERIES COMMANDER
ALFREDO MUNOZ DE OLIVEIRA, GAVE EMBOFF SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVE ON CURRENT SITUATION OF FISHERIES INDUSTRY THAN
THAT GIVEN BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES MARIO RUIVO
(SEE REFTEL).

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2. MUNOZ DE OLIVEIRA DISCOUNTED REPORTS OF PLANNED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM NORWAY OR SOVIET UNION. FISHING INDUSTRY'S MAIN PROBLEMS DO NOT LIE IN FISHING TECHNOLOGY, WHERE THESE COUNTRIES HAVE CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE, BUT IN MARKETING STRUCTURE AND TECHNIQUES. PORTUGAL'S CURRENT LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE IN FISHING, ACCORDING TO MUNOZ DE OLIVEIRA, IS QUITE HIGH, EXCEPT FOR TECHNOLOGY IN LOCATING CONCENTRATIONS OF FISHES. HE SAID "ONLY THE RUSSIANS KNOW WHERE THE FISH ARE, AND THEY DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE."

3. MUNOZ DE OLIVEIRA SAID THAT IN MARKETING AREA PORTUGAL SHOULD LOOK NOT TO NORWAY OR SOVIET UNION, BUT TO CUBA, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED A WORKABLE SYSTEM IN CONDITIONS VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PORTUGAL.

4. PORTUGAL'S EXPANSION AND RESTRUCTURING OF ITS FISHING FLEET WILL HAVE TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE KNOWN AND CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON FISHING RIGHTS. ONLY THEN WILL IT BE KNOWN WHAT AREAS WILL BE OPEN TO PORTUGUESE FISHING FLEET, AND CONSEQUENTLY WHAT TYPES OF VESSELS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS NEEDED.

5. MUNOZ DE OLIVEIRA CHARACTERIZED CURRENT STATE OF PORTUGUESE FISHING INDUSTRY AS "REVOLUTIONARY CHAOS"--FISHING SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, THERE ARE PARTIAL OR FULL STRIKES AMONG COD FISHERMEN IN THE NORTH, HIGH SEAS FISHING FLEET, AND SARDINE FISHERMEN IN THE ALGARVE, AND THE QUESTION OF OVERALL RESTRUCTURING OF THE INDUSTRY REMAINS UNDECIDED.

6. COMMENT: PORTUGUESE FISHING INDUSTRY FACES UPHILL FIGHT IN ITS EFFORT TO REVITALIZE AND RESTRUCTURE ITSELF, AS WELL AS TO REMAIN "INDEPENDENT" (PARA 5, REFTEL). PORTUGAL WILL IN FACT BE EVEN MORE DEPENDENT UPON OTHER COUNTRIES' GOODWILL AND COOPERATION (A) WHEN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE BECAME FULLY INDEPENDENT, AND FUTURE OF PORTUGAL'S LONG-DISTANCE OCEAN FISHING FLEET OPERATING OFF THEIR SHORES AND USING THEIR FACILITIES PERHAPS BECOMES QUESTIONABLE, AND (B) IF LOS CONFERENCE SHOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF NATIONAL TERRITORIAL RIGHTS OVER FISHING.

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